

Sheffield Royal Society for the Blind Rotherham Sight & Sound Cairn Home

INSIGHT SPRING 2024

Providing opportunity, support, friendship and services to people with sight and/or hearing loss in the Sheffield & Rotherham area, helping them to achieve whatever they wish to do and whatever they aspire to be.

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Introduction

As we write this newsletter, we're all looking forward to Spring, with the lighter nights and better weather!

In a nice start to 2024, we've got some exciting news about **Rotherham Sight & Sound (RSS)**! After months of work on our Centre in Rotherham, we've begun a staged return to Ship Hill. Our office staff are now back and we're also offering the hearing aid service.

Initially we won't be fully operational, as we need to get back in the building to plan and prepare. Our café will open and our activities will resume in due course. We'll keep everyone updated, anticipating this may be some time in March.

As you can appreciate, building work presents a lot of challenges and this has been a big project for a small charity, especially given complications from the impact on building work after Covid. Everything needs to be done properly and this takes time. We want to say a big thank you to our clients for their patience during the refurbishment and while we re-establish ourselves back in the Centre.

In the meantime, we continue to offer transport to **SRSB** to access the **RSS** groups that were temporarily moved to our Centre in Sheffield. Our Community Advice Officers Team and Deaf/Blind Coordinator continue, as they have done throughout the refurb, to visit clients in Rotherham.

When we opened the Centre in Rotherham in 2017, we had no clients on our database. We now have over 1,200 Vision Impaired clients and over 1,000 Hearing Impaired clients and we're delighted that **RSS** now has a more accessible building with a lift installed, and that it has been reconfigured to enable us to offer a

wider range of services and meeting space to support our clients. We're excited for the future and look forward to you joining us for this next stage.

Our heartfelt thanks to our volunteers who've continued to support our services, and to the many individuals and organisations who have supported this project with donations. Finally, we want to thank our staff who've worked hard on realising this project and adapted to the many challenges it has presented, to ensure we still offered our services to our clients throughout. We couldn't have done it without you all! More updates soon.

Joanne Ardern
CEO of **SRSB**, **RSS** and **Cairn**

SRSB & RSS News

How to Access What's On at SRSB and RSS:

We have so much happening it can be hard to keep up! However, there are lots of ways to find out:

- Online via our website Client Events page (events are listed in date order): **www.srsb.org.uk/client-events.aspx**
- Our Service Leaflets explain the specific details of services offered by **SRSB**, **RSS** and **Cairn** and are available in printed or digital format
- Monthly large print activities list or email version (events listed by activity or group)
- Mailing lists for specific interest eg Culture Club
- Large print notice board in Cafe at **SRSB** with 'What's On this Week' that also has a QR code to link you to the list online
- Contact us by phone **0114 272 2757** or **01709 722 420**
- Email us at **info@srsb.org.uk**

Most of our Client groups, activities and events are available to our clients with both sight and/or hearing loss unless specified. **SRSB/RSS** and **Cairn** clients are welcome to access services in both Sheffield and Rotherham.

New Staff: In December we welcomed Chloe Firth as our Children & Family Support Officer and Emilie MacShane as one of our Community Advice Officers.

Meet the Team

Joanne: “Hi I’m Joanne and I’m Activities Co-ordinator at **SRSB**’s residential care home in Sheffield, Cairn Home. I’m a Sheffield girl born and bred and have been working at Cairn for 7 years, initially as a carer, changing to my current role about 5 years ago.

The role involves organising a range of activities for residents, including exercises such as chair exercises, weights and bands, and I’m currently learning to offer chair Tai Chi.

We run craft activities, and at the moment we’re working on Easter baskets and flowers. We visit local pubs, cafes and shops, for example cakes & coffee at a café followed by a browse around the shops. Our clients love their quizzes and crosswords too. We love to sing and are looking at starting our own choir.

“There have been some more unusual activities to keep things interesting! For example, we’ve had visits from miniature ponies, some reptiles, and are currently looking into alpacas!

“I also read to residents in their rooms if they are unable to join the groups.

“We go through questions about our residents’ life stories for their care plan, so that we get a good picture of their interests and past careers.

“I love my job and feel it has a real purpose to help people’s wellbeing, keeping interested and engaged.

I get so much pleasure seeing people enjoying themselves.”

Chloe: “Hi I’m Chloe! I first became a client of **SRSB/RSS** at age 2 after being born with Cataracts and soon after, developing Glaucoma. I am extremely grateful for the support **SRSB/RSS** has provided throughout my life and even more so in the last year after experiencing deteriorating sight due to Corneal Decompensation.

In Dec 2023, I began working at **SRSB/RSS** as a Children & Family Support Officer after completing my undergraduate degree in Special Educational Needs and Disabilities and a postgraduate degree in Psychology and Education. This role involves supporting children and their families throughout their sight loss journey, which may be providing benefits support, co-ordinating activities for young people to meet one another and ensuring that children have the correct support in place to allow them to thrive. My role gives me the opportunity to develop and put into practice the knowledge and skills I gained at university, but also to shape the lives of young vision impaired people like myself as well as hearing impaired children.

In my spare time I enjoy reading, crocheting and spending time with friends and family.

I’m looking forward to getting to know our clients and families as well as experiencing the wonderful activities provided by **SRSB/RSS** and fundraising opportunities too.”

Services

For any of the services featured below or any of our other services, you can call us on the numbers at the beginning of the newsletter.

Client Benefits Updates: Our Community Services Manager, Sarah, has asked us to pass on this information: “If you require our support to complete benefit application forms could you please keep us updated with the outcome of the application. We

will need to have a copy of your benefit award letter for us to follow up on any further entitlements and to support any future claims. Without this information it is very difficult for our Community Advice Officers to advise accurately. If you have been awarded a benefit please call us and we can advise accordingly. Many thanks.”

Confidence Building: Look Ahead Workshops. Many of our groups are aimed to help clients to grow their confidence and independence.

When our clients are first registered with us they receive an initial visit from a Community Advice Officer and (amongst other information) are offered an option to join these workshops. Taking place each month at both **SRSB** and **RSS** Centres, the workshops are aimed at newly registered clients and clients who are experiencing changes in their vision. These two and a half day workshops cover daily living skills, technology, mobility and the emotional impact of sight loss.

SRSB/RSS staff introduce our charity and how we support our clients, as well as signposting to other organisations where appropriate. We introduce speakers, including clients who have attended the course previously to explain how it helped them, as well as speakers from other organisations.

The overall outcomes aim to be lasting relationships, with access to both our Centres in Sheffield and Rotherham and the wider community, creating social inclusion.

Raising confidence through information and knowledge, we promote independence and wellbeing in a safe environment.

Comments from past attendees highlighted a growth in confidence, friendships formed during the course and increased knowledge of how to access support and what’s available.

Please get in touch with Sarah or Tracy to find out more.

Emotional Wellbeing Group Development: We've been working on new groups for 2024 which will take place at both **SRSB** and **RSS**. These will extend the services of our Emotional Support Officer (Charlotte) and Counsellor and Psychotherapist (Jack) to help address your emotional wellbeing.

Following on from a taster in January, we are now going to hold another smaller group **Gong Sound Therapy** with a reflection session afterwards. This is at **SRSB** in March. Then in Apr there will be a session focusing on **Aromatherapy & Hand Massage** with Chris.

Jack and Charlotte are also beginning Emotional Support Peer Group sessions each month at **SRSB** and **RSS**. It will be an opportunity to share our experiences with sight and/or hearing loss and the emotional challenges it brings in a safe and accepting environment.

Just get in touch with Jack or Charlotte to find out more.

Children & Young People: Mailing List: Are you a parent/carer of a vision or hearing impaired child? Would you like to join the Parent/Carer Email Information Group?

Get updates and information on:

- Grant application opening/closing dates
- Community events
- Parent/Carer events
- Events specific to VI and/or HI children
- Updates on **SRSB** and **RSS**

Any parents/carers who are not already part of the group and would like to be added or, if you have any questions, please contact our Children & Family Support Officer Chloe on cyp@srsb.org.uk

Equipment & Technology: We'll be welcoming **Optelec** in 2024 on Wed 8th May from 9:30am to 3pm. Come along and

explore the latest products and technologies for blind and partially sighted people. Please contact us to book a place. They are also booked to visit in Sept.

QAC Sight Village: Exhibitions run throughout the year at various locations. Each year thousands of people visit these events to find out first hand the latest technology, products and support services available and we're running a trip to the Central event at Eastside Rooms, Birmingham on Mon 8th Jul 2024. Doors open 10am to 4pm Please get in touch with Liz if you'd like to put your name down.

Charles Bonnet Syndrome Event: We've been asked to let people know about this event by our friends at Esme's Umbrella. We'll be sending representatives from our Charles Bonnet Syndrome (CBS) Group along with staff representatives so that we can feed back information.

However, you are able to book online if you would like to attend independently: Join Esme's Umbrella as they host a FREE CBS information day in Manchester on Sat 16th Mar at Manchester Metropolitan University 9am to 5pm. There will be Speakers from the CBS research world and you'll be able to hear from two people with lived experience who appear in Aspectum. PLUS there will be an exclusive screening of the short film 'Aspectum' complete with audio description.

Sign up by following this link to guarantee your spot!

www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/esmes-umbrella-information-day-tickets-792995038507?aff=EM1/

Touring Theatre Performances at SRSB and RSS: Last year, Mikron theatre performed 'Twitchers' to a full house at **SRSB**. It was very well received by our clients and was a laugh out loud experience while also being really informative, interesting and accessible.

We appreciated the thought that had gone in to delivering this in an accessible way for our vision impaired clients.

This year Mikron will visit both **SRSB** and **RSS**. Both performances will be accessible as before and at **RSS** this year it will also include a BSL interpreter. So don't delay in booking your tickets.

SRSB: Wed 10th Apr. 1:30pm 'Jennie Lee'

RSS: Wed 3rd Jul 12noon 'Common Ground'

These are 'Pay as You Feel' events, with donations at the end to the theatre company. Please get in touch with Ben or Jenny to book your place.

A Bit of Culture: For those who enjoy a bit of culture we've got lots of activities and groups planned throughout the year. Just get in touch if you'd like to be added to the mailing list to find out more about trips to venues such as Hull's Street Market, Barnsley Museum, audio described and signed performances at various theatres including the Kite Runner, Grease, Hairspray and of course the panto!

We also run touch tours and audio described discussions at art galleries and our Book Club takes place on Zoom each month. Contact Liz to find out more.

Competitive Sport: We run or support various groups, often facilitated by our vision impaired clients who are passionate about certain sports. Several of the groups take part in competitions and tournaments, and some of which have been overseas. Groups include Tennis, Archery, Goalball, Football, Cricket, Ten Pin Bowling, Snooker and Shooting. If you're interested you can view a list on our website: www.srsb.org.uk/Our-Services/Sport-and-Leisure-Opportunities/ or get in touch with Ben or Jenny to find out more. Or let us know if you would like to be added to the mailing list for the monthly Activities List which includes sport and all our other activities and groups.

Easter Coffee Morning: We're holding a fundraising Easter event on Wed 27th Mar 10am to 1pm at **SRSB**. £2 per person including an Easter treat (Easter bun).

We're holding a raffle, tombola, Easter Bonnet competition (adults and kids), stalls to buy various items such as arts and crafts, books, 'Bric-a-Brac' including board games etc.

There will be games like hook a duck, axe throwing, lucky dip.

This is an indoor Easter Fete to raise money for **SRSB/RSS** open to our clients and their guests to drop in.

Donations of good working condition items would be greatly appreciated.

Adult Summer Seaside Trip: We're organising a Day Trip to Scarborough on Fri 12th Jul. Join us on our annual coach day trip to the seaside. Tickets £10. Please get in touch with Liz to book.

SRSB Creative Writing Group: This group (the Mappin Writers) has been running every Friday for many years. We've welcomed lots of new members over the years, and sadly we have to say goodbye for different reasons sometimes too.

Diana Stimely who was a dedicated, longstanding volunteer and a local Councillor sadly passed away at the end of 2023. She will be missed by us all, but always remembered.

Another longstanding volunteer who has been an integral part of the group, has retired from his role as one of the facilitators. We'll miss you Bill but hope you will keep in touch and visit us from time to time. Thank you for all your support.

Both Bill and Diana have made a big difference to the group and we are very grateful. They were both involved in many of Sheffield's annual 'Off the Shelf' literary events that take place around the city and our Centre has hosted several of these over the years.

The group recently had a visit from Sheffield Theatres to lead a writing workshop exploring their new Sheffield People's Theatre show which they're busy developing. We were delighted they came to get the groups' perspective on how to reflect the city and represent it in their writing process.

In Feb there will also be a visit from the Hillsborough & Owlerton Local History Group, who recently invited us to the launch of 'Growing Up in 1930's Hillsborough' the autobiography of Thomas Peck. We were presented with a Braille and audio copy as well as the printed book by the Lord and Lady Mayoress of Sheffield.

Carol accepted this on our charity's behalf and also read an excerpt from the Braille book to the audience gathered at Sheffield Museums Weston Park Museum.

Anyone interested in joining the writing group please get in touch with Andrea.

Our Stories: VI Shooting Medals: Our VI Shooting Group meet twice monthly at Chantry Rifle & Pistol Club in Rotherham. The group has been very popular and is supported by the club who have volunteers on hand to assist our clients.

Just before Christmas the group met for a celebration of how far they have come over the year.

The results were based on the clients' average shooting scores throughout 2023. To qualify they had to have attended at least 10 times. Very well done to everyone!

Stuart S from the club tells us, "Our VI shooters enjoyed their last session of the year. Snacks were provided and expertly presented with tea and coffee by Jim our Irish entertainer and catering manager.

All scores were recorded throughout the year, scoring done by mathematicians Gary and Trevor. The results were based on total score and number of visits. There were two categories: Optical and Audio.

"For anyone who doesn't know the audio system, the rifle is fitted with an electronic device that is calibrated to a receiver, attached

to the shooting frame. As with car reversing sensors, the closer the shooter gets to the centre of the target the higher the frequency. It sounds easy, but also appreciate that the shooter is in a standing position and the rifle stand is on a spring base - it is certainly a challenge!

“The audio shooters are achieving great scores at 10m. Scores of 50 are being shot (5 shots). We will have to think about using smaller targets. These shooters were expertly guided by Pete, Andrew John and Rod.

“The optical shooters are partially sighted with limited and varying degrees of vision. A hovering Terry was on hand to see that the rules were strictly adhered to. A few shooters are achieving great scores at 20yds - nudging the high nineties.

As ever the charismatic Stuart W ensured everyone had a good time.

“A huge thank you to all those volunteers who give up their time twice a month and for those who pop in when they can. Looking forward to another great year.”

Our thanks to the club for all their support and for helping to make this such a popular group.

Cairn Home

100th Celebrations: One of our residents will be celebrating her 100th birthday in February – she will be our second resident over 100 and we'll be celebrating with a little party to recognise her landmark birthday.

SWFC Players Visit Cairn!

A HUGE thank you to Sheffield Wednesday FC for visiting our care home in Sheffield, Cairn Home, as part of their Blue and White Christmas day.

We met Anthony Musaba, Bambo Diaby, Pol Valentin and Tyreeq Bakinson and everyone really enjoyed their visit!

The players visited while a special football themed quiz was taking place and they all took part in it with our residents. They also tried on simulation specs (these simulate different types of sight loss) and before they left they handed out goodie bags to everyone.

SWFC usually visit our Mappin St Centre but last Christmas we thought it would be nice to shine a light on Cairn Home, who obviously had a very challenging time in Covid and of whom we are very proud.

Other News: We've completed the fourth ensuite bathroom refurbishment and are currently working on the hairdressing room. When the hairdressing room is complete, work will start on the refurbishment of the next bathroom. Over the coming year we'll be carrying on with decorating rooms and corridors.

We're very grateful to a kind supporter who donated an OrCam to us. This is a piece of technology that reads printed text to you. Our staff will be having some training from Jake (**SRSB's** Technology Trainer) so that we can enable residents to read personal mail if they wish.

So lots to keep us busy this year!

If you'd like to find out more about Cairn, please get in touch:

0114 266 1536

cairn@srsb.org.uk

Awareness

We are planning various consultations and research groups for 2024. These can be around subjects such as our clients' experiences at various organisations in Sheffield and Rotherham, helping with access issues, research of products and services, helping raise awareness with local groups and local authorities, discussing art projects, working with students on their courses... and many more.

Already this year we have met with Rotherham Council about plans for the town centre, Sheffield Teaching Hospitals, and a student working on product design.

If you're interested in finding out about these groups, please let us know at marketing@srsb.org.uk

World Braille Day Article: On 4th Jan we marked World Braille Day by sharing a story written for us by local student Tilly, who is a PhD student in the Department of History at the University of Sheffield. She researches nineteenth-century tactile alphabets and correspondence networks in the British blind community. Thank you Tilly, it is a very interesting read.

You can read the full story on our website here:

www.srsb.org.uk/Feeds.aspx?Key=5c27dc8c-cde5-43c4-96be-1e1195dd759c&FeedType=DYN

Heritage and Sensory Garden:

When the weather is better and the garden is growing we'll plan a launch at Graves Park. Keep checking our website, social or monthly activity list or let us know if you would like to receive an invite.

Volunteering

If you're interested in volunteering please view our roles online:

[www.srsb.org.uk/Jobs-and-Volunteering/Volunteer-](http://www.srsb.org.uk/Jobs-and-Volunteering/Volunteer-Opportunities/)

[Opportunities/](http://www.srsb.org.uk/Jobs-and-Volunteering/Volunteer-Opportunities/) or call Andrea on:

0114 272 2757 or email:

volunteers@srsb.org.uk

Volunteer Christmas Party: We had a fabulous time at our Volunteer Christmas Party. Thank you to everyone who came.

Our thanks also to those who weren't able to attend but who continue to support us in lots of different ways. Our volunteers past, present and future make such a difference to our work, bringing many different skills and friendship. We don't know what we'd do without you.

Sheffield Visually Impaired Walking Group Volunteer

Recognition: Mike Jackson is one of our supporters and he was also a sighted guide with the Sheffield Visually Impaired Walking Group (SVIWG) for 19 years. We were delighted when we heard the news that he had been awarded an MBE for Services to the Community in Sheffield.

Mike says "It came totally out of the blue, as I never for a moment expected official recognition of the service activities I've been involved with over years.

"The times I spent as a guide and walk leader for members of the SVIWG are amongst the most rewarding of all and I am lost in admiration for the wonderful people I got to know, who simply would not allow their disability to get in the way of their enjoying the great outdoors. Serving them was a privilege and I'm glad to say that a number of them remain my great friends to this day, over four years since I was last able to act as a guide."

Very well deserved recognition Mike! Congratulations from us all here at **SRSB** and **RSS**.

Befriending Coffee Mornings: We held our first Befrienders Coffee Morning of 2024 in Jan. Our Tele-Befriending volunteer role involves regular tele-contact with clients who may be experiencing social isolation. It establishes regular communication, offers friendship, and helps to diminish feelings of loneliness.

This time the group had a talk with Rob about equipment for our clients. At the next get together in May they will hear about our Life Ahead service. As well as these get togethers being a chance to catch up with other Befrienders, the aim is to update them with

information from **SRSB/RSS** and **Cairn** so that our volunteers are well informed when chatting to our clients.

If you're interested in joining our team of amazing Tele-Befriending volunteers please get in touch. We're currently looking to expand our team in Rotherham now that we are back in the **RSS** Centre.

There are many other roles available at **SRSB/RSS** and you can view them on our website or book to have a chat with Andrea.

Fundraising

Our Fundraising Events are open to anyone to join. You can book online at **www.srsb.org.uk/fundraising-events.aspx** call Steve or Steph on:

0114 272 2757 or email:

fundraising@srsb.org.uk

The events we hold are a critical source of income for our local independent charity and help us to provide our local services in Sheffield and Rotherham.

Raffle Funds Raised: Thank you so much to everyone who took part (also to the supporters who donate prizes) and well done to all our winners! We raised a fantastic amount of over £2,350! Our summer raffle will be with the next Client Newsletter.

If you'd like more raffle books, please call us, or if you know of anyone else who would like to take part please ask them to contact us and we'll add them to the mailing list. The raffle is also open to members of the public who want to support us.

Pub Quiz: Thurs 14th Mar 7:30pm The Old Queen's Head Sheffield.

Free sandwiches at half time and the chance of winning the first team prize or a raffle prize!

Only £4 per person.

We have 4 Pub Quizzes a year: Mar, June, Sept and Dec.

Sheffield Half Marathon: Sun 7th Apr. If you'd like to run to raise funds and awareness for **SRSB** and **RSS**, we offer fundraising support. Please let us know when you have booked your place and we'll send out our fundraising pack. If you pledge to raise £100 or more we will also provide a complimentary **SRSB** or **RSS** running vest.

Challenge Events: For all you daredevils out there (or if you know a daredevil!), we have our challenge events booked in now:
Abseil: 160ft down the Owen Building in Sheffield on Sun 16th June. Entry fee is just £50, and you then fundraise what you want.
Tandem Skydive: Sun 23rd June at Hilbaldstow. Have you always wanted to Skydive from a plane?... Then make it happen in 2024! A chance to Skydive 15,000ft!
Go Ape High Ropes: Jul. Date TBC

Dates For Your Diaries: A way off yet, but make a note of the dates - more info coming soon:

Charity Golf Day: Fri 27th Sept at Abbeydale Golf Club.

Sheffield 10K: Sun 29th Sept.

Blind Drive: Thurs 10th Oct (TBC)

Lottery: Join the **Sheffield Royal Society for the Blind and Rotherham Sight & Sound** Lottery and you could win up to **£25,000!**

Play this weekly lottery for your chance to win up to £25,000 while supporting people in Sheffield and Rotherham with a vision and/or hearing impairment. Why not join today from as little as £1 a week? The more people that play the more money we receive. For each £1 entry you'll be allocated a six-digit lottery number which will remain yours for as long as you keep playing. You can purchase as many numbers as you like.

It's easy to sign up just visit the provider company website:
www.unitylottery.co.uk/causes/sheffield-royal-society-for-the-blind/

Choose **Sheffield Royal Society for the Blind** and pick how many £1 entries you'd like to play each week

Click to join online by Direct Debit or Debit Card or alternatively download our postal form

Fill out your details and click submit, or post your form to our Freepost address

Every Friday, the lucky winners are sent their prizes automatically, so there is no need for you to claim. You must be 16 or over to enter. Winners have to match 3, 4, 5 or all 6 digits of the winning number in the correct place in the sequence.

Rotherham Lottery: Rotherham Community Lottery is an exciting weekly lottery that raises money for good causes in Rotherham. All causes supported by the lottery will benefit Rotherham and its residents. Play the lottery, support Rotherham - it's that simple!

www.rotherhamcommunitylottery.co.uk/support/rotherham-sight-and-sound

Easy Fundraising: Raise money for **SRSB** and **RSS** when you shop online at no extra cost to yourself!

Sign up at Easy Fundraising to shop with over 7,000 leading retailers, who will make a donation to us every time you buy.

Download the handy toolbar and you'll know instantly if you're on a website where the seller donates. Also 'Add the donation reminder' when you first login, and apart from a few exceptions, you will automatically be prompted to accept donations from retailers when making a purchase. Amazon, John Lewis, eBay and Tesco are among the retailers in the scheme, and you can even use the site when you're buying insurance, booking hotels, flights, or doing your online food shop:

www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/sheffield-royal-society-for-the-blind?utm_term=A2302

Grant & Trusts: Since the last newsletter we've received several larger grants for specific areas of our work. The National Lottery Cost of Living Fund provided £75,000 to help our Community Advice Officers maximise benefits for visually impaired people in Sheffield & Rotherham. The Ulverscroft Foundation donated £15,000 for a new home demonstration kitchen at **RSS**, and £20,000 from the National Lottery Awards for All will help fund our rehabilitation officer for two years to set up a daily living project using the new kitchen.

Legacies: We're planning to hold Free Will Weeks in June and Oct. For anyone wanting to get involved we have opportunities throughout the year too. Just get in touch with Steve to find out more. We are very grateful to those who leave us a lasting legacy in this way as it helps us to plan for the future and to ensure that we can continue our support for the years to come.

Sponsor a Brick: Why not leave a lasting message on our wall of supporters and help provide vital funds for our charity?

You could sponsor a brick:

- To feature your company
- Simply share a message
- Remember a loved one

Each brick is a min donation of £50.

Our Local Communities: We're always amazed by the kindness of our community and its many groups and organisations. For example, we were donated Christmas collection boxes for our younger clients by local supermarkets. The Concordia Masonic Lodge 4480 visited just before Christmas to present us with a cheque donation of £1,100, The Sheffield

1,000 have chosen us to benefit from their initiative. Thank you everyone and to everyone else in our amazing communities who support us.

Take On 160+ Supporter Event: What a fabulous start to the year we had in Jan, acknowledging our Take On 160+ supporters who raised £160 and above in 2023! Collectively they raised an incredible £15,575.00 through various activities and events! Very well done and a VERY big thank you everyone. Thanks to the Lord Mayor and Lady Mayoress of Sheffield who attended to help make the day a special one. If you'd like to be part of the Take On 160+ in 2024, please get in touch.

Other News

Sheffield Talking News (STN):

Our congratulations to STN on the fantastic news that they have been awarded the prestigious Kings Award for Voluntary Service. This is the highest award a local voluntary group can receive in the UK and is equivalent to an MBE.

STN is a separate charity to us, but is based in our Centre in Sheffield. It has been serving the visually impaired community in Sheffield since 1988 and **SRSB** teams always inform our clients about it and feel it is special because of the curated stories it chooses. So while you can access news in many ways now, this is a specially edited selection for local readers.

It's run entirely by volunteers and provides people who are unable to read a newspaper or similar because of disability with a weekly spoken digest of local news. Not only does it provide listeners with a summary of local news selected by its editors, it also provides local and national information relevant to visually impaired people, magazine items, and features on people and things of interest in Sheffield and the surroundings. All of this is provided by a dedicated team of editors, readers, technicians and

others who generously volunteer their skills and whose efforts have been recognised with this award.

Receiving the Kings Award at this time is particularly fitting because the achievement can be directly attributed to their recently deceased chair, Mary Callaghan. Mary served STN tirelessly for many years and built it to its current position. The reward will be a lasting tribute to her long and dedicated service. Mary's departure has left a gaping hole within STN and the charity is seeking someone equally dedicated who can take it on to further success.

More information is available at:

www.sheffielddtalkingnews.org.uk

Community Work:

Our communities are becoming more aware that they need to support people with disabilities and we are being approached more and more for assistance. After holding focus groups with our visually impaired (VI) and hearing impaired (HI) clients, we're currently gathering evidence from various organisations to validate the need for our project. Then we will apply to the National Lottery for funding to enable us to do more community engagement work in Sheffield and Rotherham.

We want to improve our support to organisations in the local community, by providing advice on vision or hearing impairment, which ultimately improves our client's experience in the community. We'll keep you posted how we are getting on.

And Finally...

Help us save costs!

You can help us by opting to receive this newsletter by email or memory stick. If you're happy to do this, just email

marketing@srsb.org.uk from the email address you'd like us to send it to and add your name so that we know who you are. We'll

save your email and add it to the mailing list. If you have raffle tickets don't worry, we'll still send them out twice a year separately. Thank you!

We look forward to sharing 2024 with all our clients, volunteers and supporters, all the very best from the staff at **SRSB/RSS** and **Cairn**.

Sheffield Royal Society for the Blind (SRSB)

5 Mappin Street

Sheffield S1 4DT

Tel: 0114 272 2757

E: info@srsb.org.uk

Web: www.srsb.org.uk

Cairn Home

58 Selborne Road

Crosspool

Sheffield S10 5ND

Tel: 0114 266 1536

E: cairn@srsb.org.uk

Web: www.cairnhome.org.uk

Rotherham Sight & Sound

8 Ship Hill

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